

# AMERICAN FARMER.

## RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint  
Agricolae." . . . VIRG.

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### AGRICULTURAL.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

Sir,

By a resolution of the committee of the Agricultural Society of Prince George's County, I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed documents, with a request, if you think proper, to have them published in your valuable periodical paper.

I perceive in this paper, that you express a desire to know the constitutions and dates of the establishment of all our county societies—cheerfully I comply with your wish, as regards the one of this county—it was instituted on the 24th of November, 1817, by a small number of members, and now consists of between 30 and 40. The articles of the Constitution were drawn up by me during the recess, and adopted at the following meeting in February, 1818.\* The first meetings were held at private houses, but the inconvenience attending it, when the number increased, was set aside, by a resolution to have them in future held at public places.

I have the honour to be with much regard,

Sir, your very obed't serv't

A. W. PREUSS.

John S. Skinner, Esq. Baltimore.

### ADDRESS

Of Thomas Law, Esq. the President, to the Agricultural Society in Prince George's County, at the meeting in October, 1819.

As the wealth and power of a nation depend upon the accumulations of congregated industry by individuals, self-interest and patriotism combine to stimulate us to improvements in Agriculture. It is mortifying to consider how many persons have sold their farms at low prices, and relinquished their birth-places and friends, to settle in the western wilds, from inability to support themselves on impoverished land. To mismanagement only can this necessity be attributed—year after year have they scratched the surface of the earth with diminutive, feeble, half-famished cattle, and badly constructed ploughs, without returning to it any sustenance by clover or other manures. How very few farmers estimate the expense of cultivation and of seed, or calculate what is the neat surplus from their crops, after charges are deducted. Mr. Curwen, in his reports has given the following statement of the cost of working a pair of horses by a Berwickshire farmer.

\* Published in page 114 of the Farmer.

Keep of two horses,	l. s. d.
Driver,	70 00 00
Blacksmith,	30 00 00
Saddler,	3 00 00
Deterioration,	2 00 00
Tax,	10 00
Money,	9 00
Carts, Ploughs, &c-	10 00 00
sterling, . . . .	£.125 19 00

"This is a charge of 2l. 10s. 6d. per acre, supposing a pair of horses to be equal to 50 acres, in East Lothian, where 40 acres are supposed sufficient for the labour of two horses, it amounts to 3l. 3s. per acre." If seed be added to this, it will require about thirteen bushels of wheat per acre at the present prices for the farmer merely to indemnify himself. Alas, I apprehend that our crops on this side the Susquehanna rarely average this quantity.

It is most desirable that we should pride ourselves more on our implements of husbandry than on our furniture, and on external abundance rather than on internal luxury. As a proof of the expense incurred by spirited farmers in England to improve their lands. Mr. Curwen mentions a Mr. Logan who laid out seven pounds sterling per acre in liming, at the rate of about 250 bushels per acre.

In Great Britain nine tenths of the land are leased out to tenants, who pay from two pounds to five pounds sterling per acre, and they find every thing for husbandry, and even on these terms they grow rich; whilst we, without tythes and taxation, and with slaves, can scarcely support ourselves—to what can we attribute this unpleasant contrast, but to superior productiveness occasioned by superior cultivation? Mr. Curwen states, that lands of the best quality are supposed to average 34 Winchester bushels per acre, and of the worst quality 18 bushels—I leave to you my brother associates to average our crops. The above-mentioned gentleman complains, that the great and prevailing error in English agriculture is overploughing, and having more land under tillage than the quantity of manure will justify—were we to limit our tillage to our supply of manure, what an increase of old fields we should witness, and yet I am convinced that land-owners would be in better circumstances. I have been pained to behold in my rides, fields of wheat, oats, rye and corn which would scarcely return the seed sown. The rule with us is, because we have many hands, we must cultivate a great deal—England has been called a garden spot, and so it must necessarily be to support twelve millions of inhabitants on a territory not larger than Virginia. We have twenty states, for a population of nine or ten millions,

and only export produce to the amount of fifty million of dollars: which, if all in wheat, would not feed more than 200,000 for a year.

That you may judge of the produce of an English farm, I will copy Mr. Curwen's statement:—

322 acres of Wheat at 12l. sterl. per acre,	£.3864
16 Barley,	4 . . . . 72
50 Oats,	4 . . . . 200
247 Clover,	12 . . . . 2804
76 Meadow,	6 . . . . 456
51 Potatoes,	13 . . . . 663
10 Carrots,	7 . . . . 70
10 Cabbages,	8 . . . . 80
47 Turnips,	5 . . . . 115
17 Sweets,	7 . . . . 119
23 Cole,	5 . . . . 115
5 Lucerne,	10 . . . . 50
20 Pastures,	5 . . . . 100
894 acres.	£.8678

He sold 146,780 quarts of milk at 2d. per quart, amounting to 1223l. 18s. 6d., and beeves, but he credits himself with clover.

After this he gives the following account of manure:

Manure Account from Nov. 1810, to Nov. 1811.

	A.	R.	P.	
High Hunday	37	0	2	2403 Horse Carts.
Ox Close	38	1	9	1976 do.
West Leathes	28	1	16	813 do.
Common	70	0	0	4360 do.
Great Laborays	20	0	0	300 do.
Scaw Gill 2 fields	40	0	0	1436 do.
East Waites	13	0	0	561 do.
West Waites	14	0	0	1197 do.
Well Croft	14	0	0	392 do.
Old Potato field	15	0	0	308 do.
				13746

Quantity of Manure required at the Schoose, for 1812.

	acres.	cart loads.	
Low Hunday	21 at 60 loads per acre,	1250	
Winscale's field	16 do.	do.	960
Bowman's field	5 do.	do.	300
Millrig	61 do.	do.	3660
Low Park	20 do.	do.	1200
Quarry field	13½ do.	do.	810
Little field	2½ do.	do.	150
East Low field	5 do.	do.	300
West Low field	10 do.	do.	600
Common	7 do.	do.	420
Ox Close	10 do.	do.	600
	171		10250

Statement of the Land for Green Crops at the Schoose and Moor Close Farms, for 1812.

	Acres	Tur.	Cabb.	Potat.	Man. Wur.	Coler.
Low Park	20	20				
Mill Rig	61	51	10			
Low Handay	21			21		
Winscale's Field	16			16		
Bowman's Field	5	5				
Ox Close	10				10	
Quarry Field	13½			13½		
Little Field	2½			2½		
Low East Close	5					5
Far West Close	10					10
Common	7					7
Total,	171	76	10	53	10	22

Supposing the 13764 single horse carts to be equal to 4584 tons, taking the distance to be on an average one mile, it would require the horses to travel laden and empty 27528 miles. Taking into the account the carrying from the *pies*\* to where it is used, we may fairly compute it at thirty thousand miles. Supposing the number of working days 300 and that each horse travelled 15 miles a day, would require nine horses to be constantly employed. The advantages are great in having an estimate of the supposed quantity of manure necessary for the crops."

We here perceive a quantity of manure given to the soil, of which we have never entertained an idea. I have already assigned reasons why our climate is more favourable for crops, and the crops less liable to failures, than the English. That the value of our estates must rise rapidly by such improvement of the soil, and by such crops is self-evident. That the expense of cultivation in proportion to produce, must also be less, is equally undeniable.

On the subject of soiling, I have already treated at large, and I am glad to perceive that Mr. Tilghman has adopted it with success. I must refer to his letter printed in the American Farmer, for the particulars of his most successful mode of cultivation.

Next to deep ploughing and manuring, I must solicit your attention to irrigation. When I commenced farming three years ago, I learnt from my neighbours that I must not water my meadows after the end of April or middle of May, as the sun would heat the water and scald the grass; as I had been in Asia where they rely entirely upon water for the crops, as the rain never falls for seven or eight months, I doubted their intelligence, and soon ascertained that by watering they meant overflowing. I therefore conveyed water from my neighbour's spring, and found much benefit by moistening the roots of my grass. Too much watering and very little watering are equally injurious. The sun burns the grass, plant, &c. in either case; stagnate water is also destructive of vegetation.

On the subject of irrigation, I will give some extracts from Mr. Young's tour, which will be both instructive and entertaining.

"*Piedmont Rice.*—Such is the consequence of water here, that land lets for about £15 sterling per annum, an acre with a small house. The watered meadows are now mowing for a third

\* By *pies* he means cow dung covered over with earth in small heaps.

time, the predominant plants, the *epicorium in-tibus*, *plantago lanceolata*, *acchillea nullefolium*, and *trifolium pratense*. From Coni to Turin more than half the country appears to be watered, possible two thirds—it is singular that more trenches are not dug to carry the water off the land, from which we may conclude either that the heat of the climate renders such drains less necessary than in England, or that water is too far to be brought on in the least superfluous quantity. The contrivance towards Turin for carrying the aqueducts of irrigation across the roads, are beautifully executed; for convenience of distribution, the water course is raised 3 or 4 feet or more above the general level; these aqueducts are brought to the side of the road, and seemingly finish in a wall, but really sink in a syphon of masonry under the road and rise on the other side behind a similar wall. Seeing these buttresses of masonry, without perceiving at first any water, I wondered for a moment to what use they could be assigned, but when I mounted the footway, this beautiful contrivance was at once apparent. These are noble exertions, water is measured with as much accuracy as wine.

"Near Milan, land sells at £22 15s. the English acre, and the rent is about £1 5s.—but there are lands that rise to £163 the English acre. In lands water makes half the value, that is the rent will be half to the owner of the land, and half to the owner of water."

"I was shown between Milan and Pavia a spring that was discovered two miles from the land of the discoverer, the properties of many persons lying between him and the spring; he first bought the property of the owner of the spring and then he conducted it at pleasure the two miles, paying according to law, the fixed price for cutting through his neighbours' grounds, and having gained it upon his own, soon changed poor hungry arable gravel into a very fine watered meadow. The watered meadows are mown four times, and what is watered in winter, five times. All in general begin to water in April and last till September, and if there be no rain once in seven or fifteen days—an ounce of water running continually from the 24th March to the 8th of September, sells for 1000 livres.

"Every considerable spring that is found, becomes the origin of a new canal; they clear out the head for a basin, and sink casks by way of trenches, for the water to rise freely, without impediment from mud or weeds; there are usually three, four or five of these at the bottom of a basin of twenty or thirty yards—without irrigation, the rent of this country would be only one third of what it is at present. The trenches for letting in the water are deep ones, struck with the plough from eight to twelve yards asunder September—they are now watering clover eight inches high, by letting the water into these trenches, and conducting it in a singular manner; a man walking backwards, draws by a line a bunch of straw and weeds, just large enough to stop the water in the trench, and force it to overflow on each side. This is an expensive and operose method, inferior to the Spanish. In Spain the land is prepared for water by levelling with a nicety, as curious as for making a bowling green, and this is the only expense except conducting the

water. This general level is divided into oblong beds from six to eight feet wide, by little ridges of fine mould, drawn up nicely every time the ground is sown, in order that the water may not spread over too much at once, in which case the irrigation would be unequal; small trenches take the water from the carrier canals and passing by the ends of those beds, the farmer opens them at pleasure, to distribute the water where wanted."—"Watered maine is here from seven to nine feet high. Every time we see irrigation, we are more and more struck with the importance of water; French beans seven feet high—good, because cut three or four and even six times a year—crops in perpetual succession. All the crops I saw of Lucerne would yield ten tons green to the acre, let us suppose five cuttings or fifty tons, at 16s. sterling a ton, this is £40 sterling per acre. Maize or Indian corn, is sown sometimes only for its herbage, it is one of the most nourishing plants in the world."

I have made these long quotations, that attention may be given to this important subject, by watering low lands; grasses may be procured for horses and cattle, during summer, and the manure thus produced would enrich our uplands—let any one bury a little manure here and there in a field, and he will be struck with the superior luxuriance of any crop on those spots—several English farmers have visited me lately, and they all have wondered how we can obtain crops without manure. This summer being so very dry, has shown how in many places the labour of the cultivator, and the seed have been entirely lost, for want of an improved soil—when a soil is well manured, a crop withstands drought in an extraordinary manner. In Asia the natives rely almost entirely on water, for agricultural and horticultural crops, particularly for potatoes, which always are most productive in a wet season.

Mr. Heb, my neighbour, a very excellent farmer, and also a most beneficial experimentalist, has this year covered all his corn without the labour of hoeing. I have requested him to communicate to us, the mode adopted, and to exhibit the machine; he first recommended the cultivator by his example, and it is found to be superior to ploughing and harrowing after the corn is up, and to save much labour—an object of the greatest importance, where hands are so scarce and dear.

Permit me again to urge you to plant locusts, chesnuts, cherries and other useful trees along your fences. Mr. Say, a much approved author on political economy, says, "In all times attention to trees, is recommended most strongly by the ablest men. The historian of Cyrus, puts amongst the number of his titles to glory, his having planted all Asia Minor with trees. Sully, who had so many valuable economic views, planted trees in almost every province of France. I have seen many of them, to which public veneration attached his name, and they reminded me of Addison's observation, whenever he saw a plantation of trees, when he exclaimed, "a useful man has been here."

"Man has only to plant trees once, and nature does all the rest—they become an ornament and enrich the proprietor; and they also, add to the salubrity of the air—for the leaves absorb car-



bonic acid gas, which, when too abundant, is destructive of health, whilst they give out oxygen, which is that part of air the most proper for respiration."

Mr. Say also observes, that trees cause rain, and also, benefit the soil by sheltering it from drying winds. Mr. Say, alludes only to the absorption of bad air, but trees may be planted to improve it.—The Asiatics have learnt from experience, that trees are either prejudicial or beneficial to health, according to their different exhalations, and to confirm, tell a story of two Physicians, who resided at a distance, and wished to ascertain each other's skill. The first chose a stout man, and told him to carry a letter to the other, and to sleep on the road every night, under a tamarind tree—the purport of the letter was, that the bearer had a complaint, which baffled his skill—the man arrived sick, the physician by his inquiries, learnt the cause of his disorder, and immediately ordered him to sleep every night under a banyan tree, and to deliver this reply, "the bearer you will find recovered.—Wholesome trees in large cities, would perhaps prevent the yellow fever."

You may expect gentlemen, some report of my own progress in farming—experience has taught me, that timothy ought to be on uplands, and that potatoes, turnips and corn, ought to be on low land—Every person who has it his power, should have a garden on an elevated situation, with a south exposure for spring vegetables, and low grounds for the summer productions—had I known this before, I should have gained several hundred dollars.

Let me again recommend the drill husbandry, in preference to broad cast; turnips, carrots and all vegetables with tap roots, are enabled to sink deeper by the former mode, and to swell more easily—say that the earth be ploughed six inches deep, and that the ridge be raised six inches, the root can thus penetrate twelve inches, before it reaches hard soil, whereas by broad cast, it can only penetrate six inches.—The manure also can be placed exactly under the plant—Weeding also is much more quickly performed—I have a field of drilled turnips, which I believe surpasses any in the country, and I attribute my success this year, so remarkable for drought, entirely to drilling—with my sowing machine, and a roller following, I sowed in rows, and rolled in above two acres of seed in about four hours. The time is not far distant, when tobacco will be drilled, as the annual fall of prices, will compel planters to adopt this economical and advantageous mode.

Permit me now to advert to my dairy, and to recommend tin pans for milk, in preference to crocks or earthen pans, as I find that the former makes cream much quicker and in greater quantities; pewter pans were used before the revolution, and I can easily conceive that galvanism would facilitate the making of cream.—Pewter

\* When the late drought continued so long, I predicted yellow fevers—in paved towns, moisture being evaporated, can only be supplied by privies and from cellars.—Cats are then found dead, and the air becomes infected—were trees planted, moisture would ascend from the roots and pure air would be emitted from the leaves.

pots were for many years preferred to silver or glass vessels for porter, as the former improved the liquor's flavour, prejudice ridiculed the fact, till chemistry demonstrated the cause—I have imported six cows and a bull, selected by Mr. Curwen.

I imparted to Mr. Crawford, your offer to receive him as an honorary member, and he desires me in his reply, (given by me to your Secretary,) to assure our respectable associate, that he accepts of its membership with real pleasure, and he has given me some foreign wheat which I have brought to parcel out by his desire amongst us.—When the head of a department shows such zeal, we may expect our country to be benefited by the introduction of the best grains, seeds and plants of every kind from foreign realms, to be naturalized here.

Mr. Fenwick has brought over some specimens of fine wheat from Spain, and merits our thanks.

It is most gratifying to witness such a spirit of agricultural investigation excited throughout the United States.—What a pleasure it will afford to every landholder, if by a proper system of cultivation, he finds his produce annually increase, and his expenses in proportion diminish, whilst his estate is constantly rising in value; whilst his example gives useful information, and occasions emulation all around him, and he is conscious that his country benefits by the increase of productions. Agreeable and useful occupation, augments his comforts, and philanthropic and patriotic sentiments, free from the petty jealousies and malignant rivalry of trade, all combine to render the farmer's life the most happy and most innocent. In spring he casts a cheerful regard around, buoyant with hope, whilst his exulting thoughts naturally ascend to the bestower of all gifts.—In summer he gathers in his harvest with heartfelt gratitude, for the blessings of a superintending providence.—In the autumn, he applies his acquired knowledge to improve upon the preceding year, and rejoices that in creasing resources, provide for an increasing family.—In the winter at his fire side, with conscious satisfaction he hears the tempest howl in vain—his work is collected to defeat cold, his farm supplies every necessary, and even his cattle are sheltered and well fed by his provident care.

"The touch of kindred too and love he feels;  
"The modest eye, whose beams on his alone  
"Exstatic shine; the little strong embrace  
"Of prattling children, twin'd around his neck,  
"And emulous to please him, calling forth  
"The fond parental soul—nor purpose gay,  
"Amusements, dance, or song, he sternly scorns  
"For happiness and true philosophy,  
"Are of the social, still and smiling kind.  
"This is the life which those who fret in guilt  
"And guilty cities never know—the life  
"Led by primeval ages uncorrupt, when angels  
"Dwelt and God himself with man."

THOMPSON.

Before I conclude, let me recommend to you the American Farmer, a paper which collects into a focus, all the rays of light on husbandry, which are emanated from every quarter of the

globe. I have requested Mr. Skinner to give an annual index, which will make it equal to a library for a farmer.

FROM THE ALBANY ARGUS.

## Treatise on Agriculture.

### SECTION VIII.

*Of a rotation of Crops, and the principles on which it is founded.*

To this branch of our subject, we invite particular attention, because in our opinion, it forms the basis of all successful agriculture. Whatever pains we take, whatever expenses we incur, in collecting instruments of husbandry, in accumulating and applying manures and in tilling the earth; all is to little purpose, unless to these, we super-add a succession of crops, adapted to the nature of the soil—to the laws of the climate, and to the physical character and commercial value of the article raised. Peas will vegetate on wet clay; cotton and wheat, in pure sand; Indian corn will grow in high northern latitudes, and the apple may be found near the equator: we have seen St. foin, struggling in wet clay, and aquatic plants, on the top of an arid mountain; but all indicated the violence done to nature, and presented only specimens diminutive in bulk and deficient in quality. The influence of markets, on the value of produce, is as little to be denied, as that of soil and climate. In the neighbourhood of great cities, table vegetables are of much more value than wheat or rye; but, remote from markets, wheat and rye have the advantage, because being more valuable, in proportion to bulk and weight, they bear better the expense of transportation.

With this general view of the subject, we proceed to examine, 1st, the practice of Europe; and 2dly, the rotation best adapted to our own soil, meridian and markets; and

1st. Of the practice of Europe:

It was long since discovered, (1) that the soil when left to itself, was never either exhausted or tired or idle; but that however stripped and denuded by man and the animals he employs, it hastens to cover itself with a variety of plants, of different and even opposite characters; that some of these have a tendency to render the earth more compact, while others have the effect of opening and dividing it—that some, (from a peculiar structure of roots, stems and leaves) derive most of their nourishment from the earth, while others, differently formed, draw theirs principally from the atmosphere; and lastly, that in these voluntary products, there is a continual and nearly regular succession of plants differently organized.—These observations, carefully made and no longer doubted; and others, leading to the same or similar conclusions, first suggested the usefulness of taking nature as our guide, and of conforming our artificial crops, to the rules which obviously governed her spontaneous productions. The effect was such as was

1 Virgil, who was a philosopher as well as a poet, appears to have thoroughly understood this branch of natural history: "*mutatis quiescunt, fatibus arva*"—the true repose of the earth is in a change of its production.



expected, and for more than half a century, the rotation system has formed the true test of agricultural improvement, in every variety of soil and climate. Whenever it has been adopted, the art is found in a state of prosperous progression; whenever neglected or rejected, it is either stationary or retrograde. Yet in the face of a fact, carrying with it such conclusive evidence, the bulk of agriculturists continue to resist this cheap and obvious means of improvement, and pertinaciously adhere to a system, (that of fallows) which condemns to annual sterility, one fourth part of the earth, and even prefers four months unproductive labour, to abundant harvests and nutritious crops! But from this display of folly let us turn to one of wisdom.

On the rotation system, the whole arable part of a farm, is divided into four, six or eight fields, and subjected to a course of crops, denominated, (according to the number of these divisions) the short, the medium, or the long course. In constructing these courses, however, whether long middling or short, the utmost attention is paid to the nature of the soil, viz: In all soils, more wet than dry, more compact than porous, more hard than friable, the course is made up from the following plants, wheat, oats, buckwheat, the gramineal grasses, beans, vetchlings, clover, cabbages and chicory. In soils of an opposite character, (dry, porous and friable) the plants from which to choose, are rye, spelt, barley, potatoes, turnips, (2) lupins, Indian corn, clover, St. foin, and many of the pasture grasses. In loams, (which are nearly an equal mixture of sand, clay and decomposed vegetables) the choice of plants is much enlarged; embracing what is more peculiarly proper for both sand and clay, and having besides, the following plants from which to select: Rice, millet sorghum, (African millet) lucern, indigo, cotton, hops, tobacco, madder, hemp, flax, &c. &c. The following cases, will sufficiently illustrate the principles on which they rest, viz: Never to select for a crop, plants not adopted to the soil; and never, in any soil, to permit two crops of the same species, or kind, to follow each other.

2d. Of the rotation best adapted to our own soil, meridian and markets.

Previously to entering upon this subject, it may not be amiss to glance at the practice hitherto prevalent among us. What this was, in 1801, may be seen in the answer of an English gentleman and traveller, (Mr. Strickland) to certain queries of the British board of agriculture, in relation to the state of husbandry here. After remarking that New England was not a corn country, and had little to do with the plough, and that New York was then, and would continue to be, the granary of America, he proceeds to divert his British readers with the following details.—“The usual course of crops in this state, (N. Y.) is first year, maize, (Indian corn:) second, rye or wheat; third, flax or oats,

2 We here speak of the white turnip. The Ruta Baga, or Swedish turnip, is classed by French agriculturists, among the products of strong substantial clay soils. In the next section we shall speak of the culture of some particular plants, and among these of the Swedish turnip.

and then a repetition of the same, as long as the land will bear any thing; after which it is laid by to rest. A Dutchman's course, on the Mohawk, is, 1st year wheat, 2d, peas, 3d, wheat, 4th, oats or flax, and 5th, Indian corn. In Dutchess county, the rotation is, 1st wheat, 2d and 3d, pasture without seed, and 4th, Indian corn, or flax, or oats, or mixed crops.” Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland may be classed together, from a resemblance of climate, soil and mode of culture; and here we have, “1st year, Indian corn, 2d wheat, 3d and 4th, rubbish pasture. Clover is however, beginning to be introduced, in some such course as the following; 1st, wheat, 2d, Indian corn, 3d, wheat, 4th, and 5th, clover.

Two exceptions are however taken to this system, 1st, in the German settlements in Pennsylvania, where from more attention, or more skill, “the wheat crop averages eighteen bushels to the acre; where twenty five bushels are frequent, and instances of thirty not wanting; and, 2d, in the peninsula of Maryland and Delaware, where the rotation of Indian corn, wheat and rubbish pasture, has reduced the average produce to six bushels per acre; in some instances not more than two bushels are obtained, and much is so bad as to be ploughed up again.”

“In Virginia the usual crops are, Indian corn and wheat, alternately, as long as the land will produce them; and in parts where tobacco is cultivated, several crops of it are taken, in succession, before any grain is sown. No one states the average of that extensive flat country in Virginia, lying below the head of tide water, at more than five or six bushels; and in those fertile and beautiful valleys, among the mountains, in which ignorant cultivators have not yet resided sufficiently long to have entirely exhausted the soil, the produce may not be less than twelve bushels the acre.”

These specimens of agricultural skill will not be adduced as proof of the favourite national position, that “we are the most enlightened people on the face of the globe,” and the less so, as a lapse of eighteen years had not entirely weaned us from ancient habits; for neither on the Maryland peninsula, nor in eastern Virginia, is there any material alteration in their mode of culture, excepting what may have arisen from the fact, that having no more fresh land to exhaust, they are now obliged to recur to old field, and are, of course, annually suffering the new and increased penalties of former improvidence. On the western shore of Maryland, in the northern parts of Delaware and in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, the state of things is better; clover has been substituted for (what Mr. Strickland calls) rubbish pasture, and the root husbandry is encroaching, on summer fallows; which we regard as a decisive step towards a regular and judicious rotation of crops.

After this brief statement of the past and present state of home agriculture, let us anticipate the future. We cannot believe, that favoured as we are with a temperate climate, with a productive soil, with an inquiring, reflecting and independent yeomanry, and with civil institutions, which favour and protect all the developments of industry and genius, we shall long remain behind the serfs of Tuscany, the tenants of Eng-

land, or the peasants of Flanders. But to rival these, we must follow their example; we must multiply the means of subsisting cattle; because these will, in their turn, give manures, and manures will quicken and invigorate the soil for the production of articles of the greatest value and the highest price. It is on this simple basis, that we offer the following tables of a rotation of crops, adapted to our own circumstances.

Medium course in sandy soils;—1st year potatoes dunged; 2d, rye, with turnips after harvest, consumed on the fields; 3d, oats and clover, or barley and clover; 4th, clover; 5th, wheat, with turnips after harvest, consumed on the field; and 6th, peas or lupin, or lentils. We have, by this course, eight crops in six years, and five of these ameliorating crops. (3)

Medium course in sandy soils;—1st year potatoes dunged; 2d, year, wheat with turnips, as in the preceding course: 3d year, Indian corn and pumpkins; 4th year, barley and clover; 5th year, clover; 6th year, wheat and turnips as before. In this course, we have nine crops in six years—five of which are ameliorating crops: and

Medium course in clay soils;—1st year, oats with clover; 2d, clover; 3d, wheat; 4th, beans, dunged; 5th, wheat; 6th, the yellow vetchling.

#### FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

*On the Grape Vine, with its wines, brandies, salt, and dried fruits.*

#### No. IV.

The state of this culture in the Spanish North American province of Cohauila is worthy of the most particular attention of the people of the southern and western states and territories. That Spanish province extends from 26 degrees north latitude to 32. The culture of the vine there was and is prohibited by the orders of the Spanish crown, to prevent the interference of their colonial agriculture with the wines, brandies, and dried grapes, which are produced in every province of European Spain. This royal law was not made and continued without a conviction in the successive councils of Spain, that the culture of the vine was practicable in Spanish N. America. But the capacity and production of the extensive district of Cohauila, is fully proved by the printed report\* of Don Miguel Ramos de Arispe, curate, or rector of the Spanish church of Bourbon, and deputy from the American province of Cohauila to the Cortez, which report was printed at Cadiz, in A. D. 1812.

Cohauila is bounded on the north by Texas, and New Mexico; on the east and south by St. Louis, Potosi, Racatecos, New Leon, and New St. Ander; and west by New Biscay. Its northern part is west of the states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, from their coasts on the gulf of Mexico to the latitudes of Natchez, Washington, Mass. and a few minutes north.—

3 This is the boasted Norfolk course of crops.

\* For sale by Mr. Mellish at Philadelphia.—The rivers of Cohauila are the Rio Bravo del Norte, or Grande, or Medina, Santa Rosas, Pararas, Meillos, Nadadoves, and St. Domingo.



Cohauila is also west of the whole coast of Georgia and East Florida; the south cape of the Savannah river being about 32 degrees north. The precise situation of this well established Spanish North American vine district is of great consequence, as a positive proof that no part of the United States is too far south, or too hot for the vine. It is probable that the exotic grapes in Spanish America have been brought from European Spain, and that their wines are like those of the mother country. This fact gives us a reasonable hope of making such wines as those of Xerxes and St. Lucar, which are all often called Sherry. It is distinctly and officially stated by the deputy from Cohauila to the cortes of A. D. 1812. (Don M. Ramos de Arispe,) that this N. American province produces considerable quantities of good wine, a number of districts and vineyards giving wines as delicious as those of Castile in Spain. He adds, that their raising of wine is one of the most productive branches of their agriculture, and so great that they supply their neighbouring colonies, and even send some of the finest to Mexico, where they must sustain a competition with those of the Metropolitan European country.

It is remarkable that the Spanish and Portuguese nations have established more considerable, more excellent, and more profitable vineyards in their colonies and islands, than all other European nations, and Cohauila appears to equal any colony of Spain.

On the whole, the profitable growth of the vine and the manufacture of wine, in the northern section of the American continent, from the southern part of Cohauila, in 26 degrees north to the vicinity of Columbia, in S. Carolina, in thirty three degrees, and to the first rising country in N. Carolina in 34 degrees to 36 degrees 30 minutes, and to Glasgow, in Kentucky, in 37 degrees north, and to Vevay and Harmony, in Indiana, in 38 degrees 30 minutes, to 38 degrees 45 minutes give us the most indubitable assurances of a vine district, or a vine region in the United States, from our coast on the gulf of Mexico, northward to the end of the 39th deg. This is a matter of the greatest direct interest to that extensive country of the vine of the United States, and must have the most sure and favourable effects in the settlements of its lighter lands with a free white population, as in Spain, Portugal, Italy, the south of France, of Germany, and of Switzerland. It will also benefit the cultivators of cotton, sugar, tobacco, and rice, by preventing the overdoing of their productions, as they may be respectively in danger of being too plentiful in the markets of the United States and of foreign countries. But the vine cultivation will also be important in employing the population and labourers south of the fortieth degree, (with cotton, rice, and sugar,) so as to leave the more of the culture of grain, and the breeding of working and meat cattle, and the catching of sea fish, to the states north of the 39th degree.

A measure of manifest importance to the thorough investigation of our capacity and actual inceptions in the vine and wine business, is now proposed to be suggested to all persons of experience in the culture of the grape vine, and the manufacturer of wine, in those parts of the U. S. where the vine cultivation has been attempted,

on a great or small scale. The respectable gentleman who superintends the vineyards at our American Vevay, has happily led the way. In the second number of this series, his interesting statement is given. It will serve as a guide to those who may follow him, which they may use to advantage, adding whatever has occurred within their own experience, or in their observations upon their neighbours and their books. It appears that a difference of two weeks between the crop time or vintage of Vevay and Glasgow, in Kentucky, is stated. The latter place is supposed to be a little more than one hundred miles due south of Vevay. The difference of two weeks in the time of gathering is therefore worthy of attentive consideration. It is observed that the country in which our Glasgow is situated is called barren country. If the name has been given from the inferiority of the soil, compared with the better counties, then the success of the vine in soil lighter (if it so be) than that of Vevay, and with a degree and a half more of southing, and perhaps in a dryer or even an arid country, would be matters of curiosity and of interest. The history of "the great tun of Glasgow," Mr. Merchod's large cask, and of his vineyard from the beginning, with its present state and prospects, would be useful and entertaining to the public. An account of the Scuppernong, and other grapes of North and South Carolina, especially in the vicinity of Raleigh and Columbia, would be also of much interest; and the more so, because it is considered by persons of experience and observation that there is a strong similarity of temperature, and a sufficiency in soil, between the French claret, Sauterne, Grave, and Hermitage wine country, and our country in the two Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, and westward in the whole 34th and 35th degrees of north latitude.

We shall conclude this paper by a few remarks intended to remove those doubts and those objections which prudence, or the interest of judicious foreigners, of countries which now have the profits of supplying us with wines, brandies, and dried fruits, very naturally offer. It is no longer a speculation in the possible or probable fitness of our climate, soil, and country, for the various kinds of grapes and wines. We find in Cohauila from 26 to 32 in our hemisphere, on our continent, in the northern section of it, in a new and much wooded country, between the Atlantic and the Pacific, that the vine succeeds in quantity and quality, though prohibited by the government.

We find also, that in a place so far north as Vevay, five hundred gallons have been produced by the acre of land, and that the vine is equally prosperous at Harmony, in Indiana; and more so at Glasgow, in Kentucky. The fitness of the intermediate country, in the proper situations, which offer to us in every county, cannot be doubted. It is respectfully recommended, that the assistance of the marshals in the United States be directed to inquire into and report every case of a regular vineyard, great or small, at which wine has been regularly manufactured, of what age and kind of grape, in what quantity and of what quality, and colour.

*A friend to the National Industry.*  
Philadelphia, Nov. 6, 1819.

## Articles of Association

*Of the Agricultural Society of the County of Trumbull*

### IN THE STATE OF OHIO.

ARTICLE 1. The name of the Society shall be the Agricultural Society of the County of Trumbull: And the objects of the society are the Promotion and improvement of Agriculture,—Rural Economy, and Domestic Manufactures.

Art. 2. Every member of this society shall subscribe these articles, or a copy thereof attested by the recording secretary, and shall pay, at the time of subscribing, or within one month thereafter, to the treasurer, for the use of the society, one dollar: he shall also pay, in like manner, at such time, *annually*, as shall be directed by the by-laws of the society, one dollar, so long as he continues a member: And whenever a member chooses to withdraw, he shall have liberty so to do on giving notice in writing to the recording secretary, and paying all arrears and dues, including the then current year.

Art. 3. The officers of the society shall consist of a president, two vice presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and an auditor, to be chosen by ballot; and such other officers as the by-laws of the society shall direct.

Art. 4. The first meeting of the society shall be held at Youngstown, at the dwelling house of James Hillman, on the 18th day of January, A. D. 1819; at which meeting, and at any future stated meeting of the society, the members present shall have power to make such by-laws and regulations as they shall deem expedient, for carrying into effect the objects of the society.

Art. 5. No salary or other pecuniary reward shall be allowed to any officer or committee of the society, for discharging their official duties; neither shall any contributions, in any form, be exacted by the society from its members, excepting as is herein provided.

Art. 6. No alteration shall be made in any of these articles of association, except at some stated meeting of the society; and all such alterations shall be submitted at *one* stated meeting and shall not be definitely acted upon until the *next* stated meeting of the society; and in all cases two thirds of the members present shall concur in such alteration.

### BY-LAWS.

*Adopted by the Agricultural Society of the county of Trumbull, at their general meeting, on the 18th of January, 1819.*

1st. There shall be two stated meetings of this society, in Youngstown, annually, until otherwise directed, on the third Thursdays in October and January, at ten of the clock in the morning. Not less than ten members shall constitute a quorum.

2d. Special meetings of this society may be convened by the president or the executive committee. Notice of all meetings of this society shall be given, by publishing the same in one or more newspapers printed in this state, at least fourteen days before the time of any such meeting.

3d. On this day, and on the third Thursday in January in each year hereafter, between the hours of 11 o'clock, A. M. and 6 o'clock, P. M. the several officers of this society, and members of



the respective committees, shall be chosen, to continue in office for one year, and until others are chosen in their stead.—All committees shall be chosen by nomination, unless a majority of the members present shall otherwise direct: and the respective awarding committees shall designate one of their members to be their chairman, and shall give notice of such designation to the recording secretary.

4th. The president of this society, and in his absence, one of the vice presidents, shall be chairman of the executive committee. The president for the time being, shall, in all cases, have one vote, and in case of an equal vote, shall have the casting vote. He shall superintend the concerns of this society—shall cause the by-laws and doings thereof to be carried into effect, and shall sign all diplomas granted by the same.

5th. The vice presidents shall be chosen, with the designation of first or second vice president, and shall officiate in that order.

6th. The corresponding secretary shall conduct the correspondence of this society, subject to the direction of the executive committee,

7th. The recording secretary shall record the proceedings of this society and of the executive committee in separate books; and shall keep the same at all times subject to the inspection of said committee: He shall keep the seal of the society and use the same under the direction of the president: He shall countersign all diplomas signed by the president: He shall keep a record of the names of the members and of the officers of the society, and deliver a list of the same to the president, at the meeting in January, annually.

8th. The treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due and belonging to this society, and pay out the same on orders drawn by the auditor and certificates made by the awarding committees, pursuant to the regulations of this society. He shall keep regular accounts of all receipts and disbursements, in a book for that purpose, which shall always be open for the inspection of the town and executive committees. He shall, previous to the annual meetings in January, exhibit to the president a regular account of all receipts and disbursements of the year approved and signed by the auditor; And at the same time he shall exhibit a list of the names of the persons in arrear and the sums due from each; shall give bond for the faithful discharge of his duty, in such sum and form, and with such surety as the executive committee shall direct; and when his office expires he shall pay over the funds of the society, and deliver the books of the treasury to his successor in office.

9th. The auditor shall examine the vouchers and adjust the treasurer's account on the second Monday of January, annually, and report to the society at their stated meeting in the same month. He shall, also, examine and audit all claims on the society for contingent or incidental expenses, and draw on the treasury for such sums as shall be found justly due.

10th. The general administration of the affairs of this society shall be vested in the executive committee, which shall consist of the president, vice president, the corresponding and recording secretaries, the treasurer, auditor and the regular chairman of each of the three award-

ing committees; any four of whom shall constitute a quorum. The committee shall meet at least four times in each year. The president, or in his absence one of the vice presidents, shall give notice to the members of the time and places of such meetings. They shall have power to designate the objects for premiums and determine the value of each premium to be awarded: shall regulate the annual cattle show; determine the time of the meeting of the several awarding committees; and do all such other acts, consistent with the general and avowed principles of this association, as they may judge necessary for promoting the objects of the society.

11th. No premium shall be awarded without a competition, unless the committee of awards shall deem the claim highly meritorious.

12th. There shall be a committee on the cultivation and improvement of lands; a committee on the quantity and quality of produce; and a committee on domestic animals and manufactures. The premiums proposed by the executive committee shall be awarded in the following manner: those on the cultivation and improvement of lands by the committee on that subject; those on the quantity and quality of produce by the committee on that subject; and those on domestic animals and manufactures by the committee on that subject. Which committee shall severally consist of nine persons, any five of whom shall be a quorum to award the premiums; and any three of whom shall be deemed a sufficient number for the business of examination or inspection. And the several awarding committees shall make out and sign certificates and duplicate certificates of their several awards and transmit the same to the president of the executive committee, who shall, with the advice of the committee, certify his approbation thereof, and deliver the same to the person in whose favour the award was made, or to the heirs or legal successors of such person, and to none other; which duplicate certificate shall be considered as an order for the payment of the money or the delivery of the thing awarded. And if no such person shall appear to claim any such premium within three months from the time of award, it shall be held to have reverted to this society.

13. There shall be a committee consisting of not more than five persons in each town in this county to superintend the concerns of this society in their respective towns. They shall distribute all seeds, scions, plants, animals, books, &c. that may be committed to them for that purpose.—They shall examine any improvements on lands offered to be entered for premiums, and if in their opinion the improvement is so important as to be entitled to an examination by the committee on the cultivation and improvement of lands, they shall give said committee notice, and it shall be the duty of the said committee to attend for that purpose. They shall receive all communications which shall be offered to them in writing or otherwise, respecting experiments or improvements in agriculture; and if they shall find such communications sufficiently meritorious they shall lay them before the next meeting of this society.

14. There shall be a committee of publications consisting of five persons, whose duty it shall be to superintend and correct whatever is design-

ed for the press, and they shall have access to any and all the papers of this society.

15. The annual dues of the members of this society shall be paid to the treasurer on or before the third Thursday in October, yearly and every year.

16. In all cases when the president nor either of the vice presidents shall attend as members of the executive committee, the members attending may designate one of their number to preside for that meeting.

17. All officers in this society shall be elected by a majority of the votes given in.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ALBEMARLE.

*Papers communicated for publication by the corresponding committee.\**

### On Hessian Fly,—No. 1

READ, Nov. 1, 1817.

Bremo, October, 1817.

SIR,—Believing the following facts to be new in the natural history of the Hessian Fly, I deem them worthy to be communicated to the Society:—

1st—That this destructive insect deposits its eggs on the blades of the wheat indifferently, at from half an inch to three inches from the main stock, or central shoot:

2d—That they remain upon the blade, in the egg state, from 5 to 7 days at least:

And 3d—That they are hatched into the worm or maggot on the blade.

That the egg is deposited on the leaf or blade of the wheat is discoverable by close examination to the naked eye; but may be put out of all dispute, to the dullest sight by the aid of a magnifying glass. The upper surface of a blade of wheat is formed into alternate ridges and furrows, running longitudinally, and the eggs are so sunk in the furrows, that they will not be disturbed by drawing the blade through the fingers and thumb under a considerable pressure. The shape of the egg is cylindrical rounded at the ends, and at first in colour and appearance resembles a piece of amber, but as it approaches to hatching, assumes a redder cast. On the 9th of October, I first discovered the eggs on a piece of lawler, or fly proof wheat, which had been sown as early as the 22d of September. The plants at that time, generally had three leaves, and there seemed to be a manifest preference in the flies to place their eggs on the second or middle blade, but they were found indiscriminately scattered upon the surface of this leaf from half an inch to three inches from its point of contact with the central shoot. In several instances, as many as forty eggs were counted by the aid of a glass on a single blade.

Particularly eggs which were identified from day to day until they hatched, were found to remain upon the leaf the shortest period of time, five days, the longest seven. How long they had been deposited when they were first discovered is uncertain, but it is presumed some days, as the flies appeared in numbers out of all proportion small to the vast number of eggs. In two instances only were the eggs discovered at the instant of their being laid by the flies, and in both of these cases the plants were destroyed in removing them to the house to subject them to closer examination. And thus the attempt was defeated to fix the period more definitely, that the egg remains exposed on the leaf.

As soon as the eggs hatch, the worms commence their journey down the blade to its point of contact

\* These papers have already been published in the Richmond Inquirer.



with the main stock, and then down between the boot and the embryo stalk, which it envelopes to the union of the boot and stalk at the crown of the plant. Some of the worms were detected in the act of moving down the blade,—but for the most part, after the disappearance of the eggs from the blades. By stripping down the boot, the worms were found in a state so minute as scarcely to be discoverable to the naked eye, lodged near the root, just at that part of the plant which is the seat of all their mischief and where they are found in the subsequent crystalis state.

When they have once placed themselves in this situation they are clearly beyond the reach of all remedies—but the fact being established that they remain from five to seven days at least on the blades of the wheat, seems to hold out some prospect, that means may be resorted to, which will at least diminish if not entirely destroy them. May it not be an experiment worth trying, to watch the progress of the flies, and as soon as they are found to have deposited their eggs to graze the crop closely off?

There are many difficulties which present themselves to carry this suggestion into practice upon a large scale, but against so great an evil a partial remedy is better than none—if successful, possibly it may be found capable of extension sufficient for the object.

Publications have already appeared, stating the exemption of grazed wheat, from the wide spread depredations of the fly, last spring—but my knowledge of the insect at that time, not extending further than the crystalis—a state in which they are so manifestly inaccessible to any remedy that would not extirpate the plant, my mind naturally referred the effect to some other cause. Now it is clearly to be comprehended, that this destructive insect may have been devoured in the egg state, with the leaves of the wheat.

J. H. COCKE.

PETER MINOR, Esq.  
Secretary of the Agricultural  
Society of Albemarle.

### Occasional Extracts.

27th, Nov. 1819.

Mr. Skinner.—I saw in a late number of the American Farmer, your attention invited to the subject of reclaiming marshes. You would confer a peculiar favour upon myself, and a number of other subscribers and readers, by endeavouring to collect as much information as possible upon this interesting operation. It is becoming daily more important to us.

### A SUBSCRIBER.

Eastern Shore of Va.

Near Frankfort, Ky. 8th. Nov.

Mr. Skinner.—We are still without rain—such a drought was never known here. I nevertheless believe the crops, in this county, will be but little short of a medium crop—mine is fully one.

Have you in your county the dreadful malady which effects the horses in this state, and in the state of Ohio as far as I can learn, and which in many places, has been extended to the cattle and hogs? I mean the sore tongue. It commences with white blisters on the tongue—it becomes raw in a few hours, and extends to the mouth and lips—a great deal of saliva is discharged—the horse if not relieved becomes incapable of eating—the tongue rots off, and death ensues. It is atten-

ded with fever and costiveness. It is generally believed to be contagious, although it is admitted that some horses have not taken the complaint, that have been fed with those that had it, and many have taken it that have never been so exposed. It is considered completely within the power of ordinary remedies if applied in time, and the horse not used hard—purgatives are used by some—bleeding by others—but generally some astringents to cleanse the mouth, &c.—alum, saltpetre, coperas, vinegar, decoctions of oak bark, of the root of the iron weed, &c. &c.; are used by many, the three former most generally. The power of those three, and assafoetida, separate or combined, have been tried on the bit of the bridle as a preventive, and used with success. As soon as I heard it was in this neighbourhood, I took measures to keep my horses from those that had it, and to have them regularly fed and salted. I have so far escaped, but this may be for a time only.

This disease was in this state and Tennessee in 1801 and 2. I was travelling and my horses had it, but it was not as general nor as virulent in its symptoms as this year. I then heard of no fatal cases. Is this disease prevalent in other parts of the Union?

Prince George's County, Dec. 4th, 1819.

Mr. Skinner.—There is a subject closely connected with the object of the American Farmer, which I wish you to take in hand, as the progress of agricultural improvement must always be limited without attention to it. I allude to the necessity of impressing upon landholders, the great advantages to be derived from leasing lands for a term of years over that of renting for one year; with proper restrictions, and requisite arrangements for the improvement of a worn out soil. So thoroughly am I convinced of the incalculable advantages to be derived from a change in the present mode of renting land, both to the landlord and tenant, that I almost think the state Legislature could not do a better act, than to repeal all the laws for the speedy recovery of rents, when the property had been let for the short time of one or two years. It is this system that is depriving us of all that valuable part of our population for a considerable extent, quite along our seaboard, and which will, ere long, leave our society in the worst possible state, consisting of those who are very rich, and those who are extremely poor; and all history teaches us that this condition of society does not endure long, it either yields to domestic intrigues or foreign invasion. Fortunately for us is is very limited in our country, but confined as it is, we should get rid of it if practicable.

J. K.

Harper's Ferry, 27th, Nov. 1819.

Mr. Skinner.—I have just observed in one of your papers, (26) an inquiry relative to a

Machine for breaking up ears of corn. A few years since a cast iron Bark Mill was invented, which has been found very useful for grinding bark. It somewhat resembles a Coffee Mill. If not too expensive, it might be found useful also for breaking ears of corn.

Washington, 4th Dec. 1819.

Mr. Skinner.—Noticing this day your inquiry, "whether any mill, or other machine, has been invented for breaking Ears of Corn—Cob and all, without shelling"—

I with pleasure inform you I have been using such for many years, and I consider them invaluable to those who feed their stock much on Corn—besides they answer admirably for breaking Plaster, preparatory to its going into the hopper for grinding. The Iron Screw will cost about \$40, the Millright's bill ought not to be more than \$20 for attaching them to the machinery of any Mill—mine have been made and put up by my own smiths and carpenters, and are to be seen in my mills at Mount Airy, Richmond county, and at Neabsco, near Dumfries, Va. as also in my Middlebrooke mills, (late Langan's) in Montgomery County, Md. on the road from this to Fredericktown. There is a model, (though never patented) in Dr. Thornton's hands at the Patent office, sent him by Mr. Thomas T. Page of Va.—Yours, &c.

JOHN TAYLOE.

Frederick County, Md. Nov. 30, 1819.

MR. SKINNER.

Dear Sir,—In No. 35 of the Farmer you request to be informed whether "any mill or other machine has been invented for breaking up ears of corn, cob and all without shelling." Being at Major Robert Lyon's on Sunday last the 20th inst. he informed me he had just put up such a machine in his mill on his estate about 10 miles from your city. I understood it to be of cast iron, on the principle of the plaster braker, and erected under the impression that corn used in this way makes a most excellent and economical food for any kind of stock. Mr. Lyon made the experiment some years since, and found it essentially serviceable.

Respectfully, Your obt. servt.

W. V. B.

P. S. The patent cast iron bark mill will I think, answer the purpose; indeed I have no doubt of it, as it is excellent for getting out clover seed.

Mr. Bordly is I think the inventor of the clover seed rake. A thought occurred to me after writing thus far, to try the strength of the cob by boiling, which I have had done; it has a strong taste, but I do not believe it can be boiled to a pulp—it may nevertheless be nutritious. I have not seen in your useful paper any description of the threshing machine lately exhibited at the farm of Robert Smith, Esq. Have you seen it, and what is your opinion thereof?

Is it likely to get into general use? Excuse the liberty I have taken and the trouble I put you to.

W. V. B.

# THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1819.

## On the use of Oxen in Husbandry.

We propose to devote a considerable portion of some succeeding numbers, to the publication of the interesting facts and reasoning, we have lately collected; to show the advantage that would result to the Agricultural community, by the substitution of Oxen, in place of Horses, for the common purposes of Husbandry.—The more we examine and reflect upon the subject, the more we are convinced of the justice of Mr. Madison's suggestions on this point, to be found in the 178th page of this volume, commencing with the declaration that he could "not but consider it an error in our husbandry, that oxen are so little used in place of horses."

In the course of these publications, engravings will be introduced, to show the different manner of gearing them in different countries.

## FROM THE SPECTATOR.

*Hic gelidi fontes, hic mollia parata, Lycori,  
Hic nemus, hic toto tecum consumerer ævo.*

VIRG. ECL. 10. v. 42.

Come see what pleasures in our plains abound;  
The woods, the fountains, and the flow'ry ground:  
Here I could live, and love, and die with only you.

DRYDEN.

Hilpa was one of the hundred and fifty daughters of Zilaph, of the race of Cohu, by whom some of the learned think is meant Cain. She was exceedingly beautiful; and when she was but a girl of three score and ten years of age, received the addresses of several who made love to her. Among these were two brothers, Harpath and Shalum: Harpath being first-born, was master of that fruitful region which lies at the foot of Mount Tirzah, in the southern parts of China. Shalum (which is to say the planter, in the Chinese language) possessed all the neighbouring hills, and that great range of mountains which goes under the name of Tirzah. Harpath was of a haughty contemptuous spirit; Shalum was of a gentle disposition, beloved both by God and man.

It is said that, among the antediluvian women, the daughters of Cohu had their minds wholly set upon riches; for which reason the beautiful Hilpa preferred Harpath to Shalum, because of his numerous flocks and herds, that covered all the low country which runs along the foot of Mount Tirzah, and is watered by several fountains and streams breaking out of the sides of that mountain.

Harpath made so quick a dispatch of his courtship, that he married Hilpa in the hundredth year of her age; and being of an insolent temper, laughed to scorn his brother Shalum for having pretended to the beautiful

Hilpa, when he was master of nothing but a long chain of rocks and mountains. This so much provoked Shalum, that he is said to have cursed his brother in the bitterness of his heart, and to have prayed that one of his mountains might fall upon his head if ever he came within the shadow of it.

From this time forward Harpath would never venture out of the valleys, but came to an untimely end in the two hundred and fiftieth year of his age, being drowned in a river as he attempted to cross it. This river is called to this day, from his name who perished in it, the river Harpath: and, what is very remarkable, issues out of one of those mountains which Shalum wished might fall upon his brother when he cursed him in the bitterness of his heart.

Hilpa was in the hundredth and sixtieth year of her age at the death of her husband, having brought him but fifty children before he was snatched away, as has been already related. Many of the antediluvians made love to the young widow, though no one was thought so likely to succeed in her affections as her first lover Shalum, who renewed his court to her about ten years after the death of Harpath: for it was not thought decent in those days that a widow should be seen by a man within ten years after the decease of her husband.

Shalum falling into a deep melancholy, and resolving to take away that objection which had been raised against him when he made his first addresses to Hilpa, began immediately after her marriage with Harpath, to plant all that mountainous region which fell to his lot in the division of this country. He knew how to adapt every plant to its proper soil, and is thought to have inherited many traditional secrets of that art from the first man. This employment turned at length to his profit as well as to his amusement; his mountains were in a few years shaded with young trees, that gradually shot up into groves, woods, and forests, intermixed with walks and lawns and gardens: insomuch that the whole region, from a naked and desolate prospect, began now to look like a second paradise. The pleasantness of the place, and the agreeable disposition of Shalum, who was reckoned one of the mildest and wisest; of all who lived before the flood, drew into it multitudes of people, who were perpetually employed in the sinking of wells, the digging of trenches and the hollowing of trees, for the better distribution of water through every part of this spacious plantation.

The habitation of Shalum looked every year more beautiful in the eyes of Hilpa, who after the space of seventy autumns, was wonderfully pleased with the distant prospect of Shalum's hills, which were then covered with innumerable tufts of trees, and gloomy scenes, that gave a magnificence to the place,

and converted it into one of the finest landscapes the eye of man could behold.

The Chinese record a letter which Shalum is said to have written to Hilpa, in the eleventh year of her widowhood. I shall here translate it, without departing from that noble simplicity of sentiments, and plainness of manners, which appear in the original.

Shalum was at this time one hundred and eighty years old, and Hilpa one hundred and seventy.

*"Shalum, Master of Mount Tirzah, to Hilpa, Mistress of the Valleys.*

*"In the 788th year of the creation,*

*"What have I not suffered, O thou daughter of Zilpha, since thou gavest thyself away in marriage to my rival? I grew weary of the light of the sun, and have ever since been covering myself with woods and forests. These threescore and ten years have I bewailed the loss of thee on the tops of Mount Tirzah, and soothed my melancholy among a thousand gloomy shades of my own raising. My dwellings are at present as the garden of God; every part of them is filled with fruits, and flowers and fountains. The whole mountain is perfumed for thy reception. Come up into it, O my beloved, and let us people this spot of the new world with a beautiful race of mortals; let us multiply exceedingly among these delightful shades, and fill every quarter of them with sons and daughters. Remember, O thou daughter of Zilpha, that the age of man is but a thousand years; that beauty is the admiration but of a few centuries. It flourishes as a mountain-oak, or a cedar on the top of Tirzah, which in three or four hundred years will fade away, and never be thought of by posterity, unless a young wood springs from its roots. Think well on this, and remember thy neighbour in the mountains.*

Having here inserted this letter, which I look upon as the only antediluvian *billet-doux* now extant, I shall in my next paper give the answer to it, and the sequel of this story.

\*\*\* Bills have been sent to those who have forgotten to pay their dues in advance, according to the well known terms of this paper. We say *forgotten*, because we are not disposed to believe, that any gentleman would willingly disregard an obligation of this sort, particularly, when it is recollected that the Editor is bound, both by inclination and contract, to pay off PRINTER, PAPER-MAKER, and ENGRAVER, every week.

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